

WEST CHICAGO INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM
December 19, 2008
Conference Call Minutes

ATTENDEES

Barbara Magel, Counsel for Local Communities
Jamie Geils, CBBWEL, Local Communities
Kim Smart, DuPage River Coalition
John Coakley, City of Warrenville
Tom Williams, IEPA
Chuck Grigalauski, IEPA
Gary McCandless, IEMA/DNS
Gerald Karr, Illinois Attorney General's Office
Mary Constantino, DuPage County State's Attorney's Office
Mark Krippel, Tronox
Tim Fischer, U.S. EPA, Superfund
David Seely, U.S. EPA, Superfund
Mary Fulghum, U.S. EPA, Office of Regional Counsel

REED-KEPPLER PARK SITE

Tim said that he has drafted a Final Closeout Report for the Reed-Kepler Park site which must undergo EPA Headquarters review. The report has also been submitted to Tom Williams at IEPA and to Mary Fulghum for review and comment. Tim said that he had already received some comments from Mary and he hoped to have the report completed by sometime next month. Tim said that this Closeout Report must be completed before an NPL delisting package can be put together for the Reed-Kepler Park site.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT SITE, river portion

Reach 5A (STP to Mack Road) and Reach 5B (Mack Road to Kress Creek confluence):
Tim reported that the Reach 5B Final Completion Report had been finalized and that he would be placing a copy of the report in the information repository for the site. Tim said that with the completion of this report, the River Portion of the Sewage Treatment Plant site was complete except for the ongoing Maintenance and Monitoring of the plantings at the site for three years.

KRESS CREEK/WEST BRANCH DUPAGE RIVER SITE

Cleanup Progress

Tim provided an update on cleanup activities for the creek and river.

Reach 5C (confluence to Mack Road): Tim stated that excavation had been completed in Reach 5C in 2007, and that restoration work had been ongoing all summer in 2008. Tim said that planting in Reach 5C had been completed in late October and the post-construction walkover inspection was conducted on November 13 to verify that all planting had been completed in Reach 5C. Tronox completed a list of punchlist items for Reach 5C, and US EPA received the Post-Construction Inspection Report for Reach 5C on November 17, 2008. This starts the Maintenance and Monitoring 3-year clock for Reach 5C.

Reaches 5D and 5E (Mack Road to Williams Road): Tim stated that excavation had been completed in Reach 5D in 2007, and that restoration work had been ongoing all summer in 2008. Tim stated that excavation was completed in Reach 5E on May 22, 2008. Restoration in Reaches 5D and 5E was completed in early November 2008, and a post-construction walkover inspection was conducted on November 20 to verify that all planting had been completed in Reaches 5D and 5E. Tronox completed a list of punchlist items for Reaches 5D and 5E, and US EPA received the Post-Construction Inspection Report for Reaches 5D and 5E on November 24, 2008. This starts the Maintenance and Monitoring 3-year clock for Reaches 5D and 5E. Tim noted that, for Reach 5D, the staging area was excluded from the inspection report because Tronox needs to use the staging area into next construction season. The Reach 5D staging area will now have its own maintenance and monitoring period beginning when it is restored.

Reach 6 (Williams Road to Butterfield Road): Tim stated that all railcar loadouts for Reach 6 Targeted Material had been completed on December 11, and that those cars had been sent offsite for disposal in Utah. As of December 11, there was no Targeted Material remaining at the REF for the winter season. Tim said that one empty railcar is remaining onsite because it is in need of repairs before it can be moved.

Reach 7 (Butterfield Rd to the Warrenville Grove Dam): Tim said that design work has been initiated for Reach 7 and that we expect to get a draft design document for Reach 7 in late January or early February. Tim said that there has already been some preparation work for the staging area in Reach 7, and that EPA anticipates that remedial work will begin when the weather warms and construction season begins in early April. Tim said that EPA plans to hold another informational kick-off meeting for local residents in late March before that construction begins.

Reach 8 (Warrenville Grove Dam to McDowell Grove Dam): Tim said that characterization had been completed in Reach 8 and that EPA had received the final Reach 8 characterization database for review. Tim said that Tronox will use the database to generate their excavation maps for incorporation into the Reach 8 Work Plan. Tim

said that EPA does not expect to receive that Work Plan until the end of 2009 or early in 2010.

Tim provided an opportunity for questions following his updates, but there were none.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS SITE

Recap of “old cleanup residual” issue: Kerr-McGee conducted a cleanup of 100+ residential properties in West Chicago in the mid-1980s. The issue is whether there is potentially any low-level residual contamination that was left behind at the bottom of the old excavation in the mid-1980s that was then covered with clean backfill soil. If such residual low-level contamination exists, it would probably be just slightly above EPA’s current cleanup standard, and the clean soil that was placed over it may have prevented EPA from detecting it during the Superfund investigation and cleanup that started in the mid-1990s. This issue was raised and EPA is now working to resolve it. This issue affects only those particular properties that were part of the mid-1980s cleanup. Properties that were not part of the 1980s cleanup are not affected by this issue.

David summarized the site management transition and recent issues for those individuals that didn’t participate in the last forum meeting. David explained that efforts were ongoing to gain access to properties identified by EPA which were in need of additional testing. Access to these properties was not granted due to a variety of reasons, but the primary issues were related to EPA’s inability to adequately communicate with Spanish speaking property owners. Other issues were related to wrong property owner information or a complete lack of response. David worked with Mary Fulghum to verify current property owner information and an EPA Civil Investigator assisted in identifying phone numbers.

David stated that EPA is working on identifying options to provide him with Spanish translation services. David met with Janet Pope of Community Involvement and management during which two EPA employees were identified that were capable of assisting David in this effort. These two employees, Raphael Gonzalez and Noel Vargas, have community involvement experience. However these employees were not in the Superfund Division and therefore required a fair amount of effort to obtain approval for these employees to provide the assistance needed. Noel and Raphael were brought up to speed on the site issues and provided them with the property owner information. As of December 10th, Raphael and Noel began making calls to the property owners attempting to gain access. The most current information David was given indicates that four property owners have agreed to sign access forms and David is awaiting the signed forms. EPA could not reach two property owners and two other properties had incorrect contact information. David needs to do more research to identify accurate contact information.

Additionally David went through all of the 1980s files for the properties. This effort identified the need for additional Spanish translation services for other property owners and verified the status of internal EPA reviews. Also David continues to respond to

multiple community inquiries relating to Real Estate questions. David has also been in contact with DuPage County in an attempt to update EPA's tax parcel map. EPA's current map is an oversized paper copy dates back to the mid-1990s and is in danger of falling apart. David has inquired about receiving electronic files with this information so that EPA would have the ability to update the status of each property. This will allow the information to be stored permanently and minimizes the danger losing this information in the summary format.

OTHER ISSUES

Update on NOAA Grant Projects

There was no update on the NOAA projects this month.

NEXT FORUM MEETING

The next meeting of the West Chicago Intergovernmental Forum is scheduled for **Friday, February 20, 2009, at 10 a.m.** in West Chicago City Council Chambers, West Chicago.